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ACTION INR-00

BUENOS 02414 01 OF 03 151205Z

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 NSAE-00  
PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 SP-00 TEST-00 USIE-00 BBG-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7453  
INFO USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2  
USCOMSOLANT

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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, I/GWHA, WHA, WHA/PDA, WHA/BSC,  
WHA/EPSC  
USCINCSO FOR J-2 IAD/LAMA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KPAO, OPRC, KMDR, PREL  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION A/S REICH LATAM TOUR  
07/11/02

# 1. SUMMARY STATEMENT

LOCAL MEDIA GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO A/S OTTO REICH'S  
VISIT TO ARGENTINA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIS LATIN  
AMERICAN TOUR. ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORT HIS MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT DUHALDE YESTERDAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHERE  
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THEY DISCUSSED ARGENTINA'S CONTINUED QUEST FOR  
FINANCIAL AND MONETARY STABILITY, US-BACKED EFFORTS TO  
FIGHT DRUG-TRAFFICKING AND US PRESIDENT BUSH'S MAIN  
PRIORITY IN THE REGION: CREATION OF THE FTAA,  
EMPHASIZED BY REICH AS THE REGION'S BEST CHANCE TO  
ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY AMID ECONOMIC TURBULENCE.  
LEADING "CLARIN" AND DAILY-OF-RECORD "LA NACION"  
REPORT THAT DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT  
DUHALDE AND US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN  
HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS OTTO REICH, DUHALDE SAID CARLOS  
REUTEMANN WAS GOING TO RUN AS A FRONTRUNNER CANDIDATE  
IN PERONIST INTERNAL ELECTIONS AND BOTH PAPERS  
HIGHLIGHT THAT 'REUTEMANN'S 'NO' SHOCKED EVERYONE.'  
LEFT-OF-CENTER "PAGINA 12" CARRIES TWO NEGATIVE  
OPINION PIECES ON A/S REICH'S VISIT. IN A SIDE-BOX

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
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ENTITLED "EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR THE US AMBASSADOR,"  
LEADING "CLARIN" REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR WALS  
'RECEIVED EXPLICIT SUPPORT FROM A/S OTTO REICH DURING  
A TOAST AT THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY.'

## 2. SAMPLE HEADLINES

DAILY-OF-RECORD "LA NACION" (07/11) "DUHALDE TOLD OTTO  
REICH THAT REUTEMANN WOULD BE RUNNING FOR THE  
ARGENTINE PRESIDENCY. IT WAS A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE  
GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED HIM HE WAS NOT GOING TO DO IT."

LEADING "CLARIN" (07/11) "BUSH'S ENVOY CONGRATULATES  
DUHALDE FOR CALLING FOR EARLY ELECTIONS."

CONSERVATIVE "LA PRENSA" (07/11) "THE US PRAISES THE  
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(ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S) DECISION TO BRING FORWARD  
ELECTIONS." "REICH PRAISED DUHALDE AND ENSURED THAT  
DUHALDE'S CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS MEANT TO PRIORITIZE  
THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS OVER POLITICAL INTERESTS.  
DUHALDE MENTIONED THE HARSH SITUATION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT."

LEFT-OF-CENTER "PAGINA 12" (07/11) "A BUSH ENVOY WHO  
WAS TOLD TO BE SILENT." "WHO IS THE US ENVOY FOR THE  
SOUTHERN CONE?"

LIBERAL, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD"  
(07/11) "OTTO REICH GIVES DUHALDE SUPPORT."

BUSINESS-FINANCIAL "AMBITO FINANCIERO" (07/11) "'WE  
WILL PROTECT INVESTMENT.'"

BUSINESS-FINANCIAL "EL CRONISTA" (07/11) "DUHALDE  
REITERATES HIS REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT. US ENVOY  
REVEALS THAT BUSH WANTS TO IMPLEMENT FTAA IN 2005."

BUSINESS-FINANCIAL "BUENOS AIRES ECONOMICO" (07/11)  
"NOW, THE US GETS CLOSER TO THE US." "'REAL' US  
CONCERN ABOUT THE REGIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION."

## 3. OPINION PIECES AND BY-LINED STORIES

- "DUHALDE TOLD TO OTTO REICH THAT REUTEMANN WOULD  
BE RUNNING FOR THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENCY"

JORGE ELIAS, POLITICAL COLUMNIST OF DAILY-OF-RECORD

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"LA NACION," COMMENTS (07/11) "IN WASHINGTON AND IN  
OTHER CAPITAL CITIES IN THE WORLD THERE IS AN  
UNWRITTEN RULE: THERE CANNOT BE SOMEONE MORE AND  
BETTER INFORMED THAN THE PRESIDENT. IT WAS NOT THE  
CASE WITH EDUARDO DUHALDE, WHO DURING HIS MEETING WITH  
US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS,  
OTTO REICH, SAID CARLOS REUTEMANN WAS GOING TO RUN AS  
A FRONTRUNNER CANDIDATE IN PERONIST INTERNAL  
ELECTIONS... EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED, AS WAS REICH, WHO  
KNOWS ABOUT THE LATIN AMERICAN NATURE DUE TO HIS CUBAN  
ORIGIN AND HIS DIPLOMATIC DESTINATIONS, BUT HE HAS AN  
AMERICAN MIND AND IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH SUCH ABRUPT  
CHANGES IN A CRISIS-STRICKEN COUNTRY AND EVEN LESS  
WITH RESIGNATIONS THAT THEORETICALLY IMPLY LACK OF  
COMMITMENT IN AN EMERGENCY. IN THEIR MEETING REICH  
CONGRATULATED DUHALDE FOR BRINGING FORWARD ELECTIONS  
AND SAID HE IS IN FAVOR OF A PROMPT DEAL WITH THE  
IMF... 'REICH SAID ' (DUHALDE) PRIORITIZED THE  
INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY OVER HIS OWN POLITICAL  
INTERESTS.' THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF SOMEONE WHOSE LIFE  
IS DEVOTED TO POLITICS. AND THIS IS WHY REUTEMANN'S

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INFO USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ2  
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'NO' WAS SHOCKING TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT HE COULD CHANGE HIS MIND... IN THE MEETING, REICH PROMOTED THE FTAA... AND PONDERED ARGENTINE VALUES, WHICH ARE ALSO SHARED BY THE US, AND THE AID GRANTED BY ARGENTINA (TO THE US) SINCE THE GULF WAR UP TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM. AND REICH ALSO MENTIONED HE HOPES

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ARGENTINA CAN REACH A DEAL WITH THE IMF. BUT HE DID NOT GO BEYOND, EXCEPT ON THE NEED FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PLAN. IN FACT, REICH'S MISSION... HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ARGENTINA'S NEGOTIATIONS TO RECOVER FINANCIAL AID."

- "BUSH'S ENVOY CONGRATULATES DUHALDE FOR BRINGING FORWARD ELECTIONS"

ANA GERSCHENSON, POLITICAL COLUMNIST OF LEADING "CLARIN," COMMENTS (07/11) "(REICH) CALLED (DUHALDE) 'BRAVE.' US ENVOY OTTO REICH CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT DUHALDE FOR HAVING BROUGHT FORWARD ELECTIONS AND, THEREFORE, 'PRIORITIZING THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS OVER HIS OWN'... THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAD UNOFFICIALLY LET THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT KNOW THAT, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON, THE BEST SCENARIO FOR ARGENTINA WOULD BE TO BRING FORWARD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THIS IS THE REASON WHY BUSH'S ENVOY SOUNDED SO PLEASED... THE MEETING ENDED LIKE A REPLAY. REICH EMPHASIZED THAT THE USG PERMANENTLY MONITORS THE ARGENTINE SITUATION THROUGH THE IMF AND IS WILLING TO CONTINUE COOPERATING 'WITH A FRIENDLY COUNTRY' THROUGH (OF COURSE) INTERNATIONAL LOAN INSTITUTIONS... REICH CAME TO ARGENTINA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A 'SURVEILLANCE' TOUR TO THE REGION, WHICH IS BEATEN DOWN BY THE CONTAGION OF THE ARGENTINE CHAOS AND THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE BRAZILIAN MARKET IN ITS PRE-ELECTION STAGE. AND AMID CRITICISM FROM BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT CARDOSO AND MEXICAN PRESIDENT FOX DUE TO BUSH'S 'ABANDONMENT' OF LATIN AMERICA."

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- "NOW THE US IS CLOSER TO ARGENTINA"

CECILIA BOUFFLET, COLUMNIST OF BUSINESS-FINANCIAL

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"BUENOS AIRES ECONOMICO," COMMENTS (07/11) "'I WANT TO BE HERBERT HOOVER IN ORDER TO ALLOW FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT TO COME,' SAID PRESIDENT DUHALDE TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENVOY, OTTO REICH... THROUGH THIS AMBITIOUS COMPARISON, DUHALDE ATTEMPTED TO ASSURE TO HIS US INTERLOCUTOR THAT DURING HIS REMAINING MONTHS IN OFFICE HE WILL ADVANCE IN THE REFORM OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND THE REBUILDING OF THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY..., AS HOOVER DID WHEN HE HAD TO GOVERN DURING THE CRISIS OF THE '30S. THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT ATTEMPTED TO REINFORCE THE SYMPATHY RAISED IN THE US BY HIS BRINGING FORWARD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND HE ALSO ASSURED HE WILL NOT PLACE ARGENTINA IN A STAND-BY POSITION DURING THE ELECTION PROCESS. DUHALDE'S NEW POSITION HAS NOTABLY RELAXED TENSION IN THE (US/ARGENTINA) BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP... REGARDING ARGENTINA'S REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF, ALTHOUGH REICH DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF IN THIS SENSE, HE SAID TO DUHALDE THAT 'CRISES GO AWAY AND THE US IS AND WILL BE AN ALLY OF ARGENTINA,' AND HE ADDED 'WE ARE HERE AS A SIGN OF SUPPORT... IN HIS MEETING WITH REICH, PRESIDENT DUHALDE ALSO CONVEYED HIS CONCERN ABOUT COLOMBIAN DRUG-GUERRILLAS AND OPINED THAT SOUTH AMERICA SHOULD OBSERVE THAT SCENARIO MORE ATTENTIVELY."

- "MR. VENEZUELA"

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MARTIN GRANOVSKY, MANAGING EDITOR OF LEFT-OF-CENTER "PAGINA 12," HIGHLIGHTS (07/11) "... IF ONE HAS TO MEASURE REICH NOW, SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE AS US ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS, THE KEY TO DOING SO IS NOT HIS VAGUE EXPRESSIONS ABOUT DEMOCRACY BUT HIS DETACHMENT TOWARD DEMOCRATIC CONTINUITY. THE EVIDENCE WAS VENEZUELA. WHEN HUGO CHAVEZ WAS OVERTHROWN, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIFTEEN YEARS, THE US DID NOT TRIGGER THE CLAUSE THAT HAD BEEN USED IN EACH PREVIOUS ATTEMPT OF A COUP D'ETAT: ITS IMMEDIATE CONDEMNATION AND THREAT TO ISOLATE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. AN ANECDOTE IS CIRCULATING AMONG WASHINGTON DIPLOMATS. ACCORDING TO THIS ANECDOTE, AFTER THE FAILURE OF THE COUP, REICH GATHERED LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS OR DCMS. WHEN ONE OF THEM REPROACHED HIM THAT WASHINGTON HAD NOT COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT PEDRO CARMONA WAS ANYTHING BUT A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT, (REICH'S) ANSWER WAS: 'BY ANY CHANCE, DIDN'T ARGENTINA HAVE FIVE PRESIDENTS IN ONLY

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ONE WEEK?' A SOUTH AMERICAN DIPLOMAT REMINDED HIM THAT

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ARGENTINA COULD BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIOUS CRISIS  
BUT AT LEAST IT HAD FOLLOWED ITS CONSTITUTION. REICH  
REMAINED SILENT."

"THE 'NOTHING' AMBASSADOR"

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CLAUDIO URIARTE, LEFT-OF-CENTER "PAGINA 12'S"  
INTERNATIONAL ANALYST, OPINES (07/11) "REGARDLESS OF  
HOW TERRIBLE HIS BACKGROUND AS ANTI-CASTRO AND VETERAN  
OF THE 'CONTRA' WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA CAN BE, OTTO  
REICH... IS A MEMBER OF THE 'DOVES' SECTION OF THE  
BUSH ADMINISTRATION AS REGARDS ARGENTINA. THE  
DISAGREEMENT IN THIS SENSE CAN BE QUICKLY SUMMARIZED::  
'HAWKS' (US TREASURY SECRETARY PAUL O'NEILL AND HIS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN TAYLOR) SAY THEY WILL NOT  
GRANT ANY MONEY TO ARGENTINA; WHILE 'DOVES' (US  
SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL AND REICH) SAY THEY

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HAVE NO MONEY. IN FACT BOTH THINGS ARE TRUE, BUT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT INCLUDES CONCERN ABOUT REGIONAL INSTABILITY, WHICH IS ABSENT IN O'NEILL AND TAYLOR'S STATEMENTS... IN OTHER WORDS, THE 'CONTRA' WAR VETERAN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DOMINO EFFECT OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COLLAPSE, AND PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT COLOMBIA, WHICH IS ON THE VERGE OF DOMESTIC WAR AND FOR WHICH HE DOES NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS; HIS GEO-POLITICAL HARSHNESS HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO A HIGHER STATE OF ALERT VIS--VIS REGIONAL SUFFERING. BUT, AS AN UNNAMED US STATE DEPARTMENT UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL SAID BEFORE REICH LEFT FOR THE REGION (AND WHO IS SURELY REICH HIMSELF), 'THERE WILL NOT BE ANY RESCUE FOR ARGENTINA.' THIS IS WHY REICH'S TOUR AROUND MERCOSUR SEEMS A FUTILE EXERCISE. DESPITE THE THREATS OF VACUUM OF POWER IN ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, PERU, COLOMBIA, PARAGUAY AND PERHAPS BRAZIL, SOUTH AMERICA HAS NOT EVEN ENTERED THE US EARLY ALARM SYSTEM AGAINST TERRORISM... REICH HAS ALSO COME WITH HIS HANDS EMPTY REGARDING THE FAMOUS

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FTAA..., WHICH WILL BE UNATTAINABLE AS LONG AS WASHINGTON IS INCREASING INSTEAD OF LOWERING ITS TARIFF BARRIERS. AND IF ONE BEARS IN MIND THAT REICH WAS APPOINTED BY BUSH... IN ORDER TO AVOID REJECTION BY US CONGRESS, AND THAT HE WILL ONLY BE IN OFFICE FOR ONE YEAR, YESTERDAY'S NEWS CAN BE SUMMARIZED IN ONLY ONE PHRASE: THE SO-CALLED PRESIDENT RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR OF 'NOTHING'."

#### 4. OTHER STORIES

- "EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR THE US AMBASSADOR"

IN A SIDE BOX ENTITLED "AN EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR THE US AMBASSADOR", LEADING "CLARIN" REPORTS (07/11) "US AMBASSADOR JAMES WALSH RECEIVED EXPLICIT SUPPORT FROM A/S OTTO REICH. IN A TOAST AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, REICH LIFTED HIS GLASS TO LOUDLY EXPRESS HIS CLEAR SUPPORT FOR THE US DIPLOMAT. IN RECENT WEEKS, SOURCES FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT LEAKED THAT THE DIPLOMAT WAS NOT ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE PRESIDENT BUSH'S REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH (WALSH'S) PERFORMANCE DURING THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL CRISIS... JUST ONE MONTH AGO, THE AMBASSADOR DENIED THE WHITE HOUSE WAS FOSTERING EARLY ELECTIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR SUPPORTING ARGENTINA IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF.

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WALSH IS USED TO MEETING WITH RADICAL AND PERONIST  
POLITICAL LEADERS. BUT HE MAINTAINS A CHILLY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH ELISA CARRIO, ARI PRESIDENTIAL  
CANDIDATE."

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WALSH

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